

January 12,2012

To whom it may concern,

I have owned and operated my own boat and fished full time for albacore for 38 years. Over the course of my career I can count on one hand the seasons I have gone to Canada and caught any significant amount of fish. Even in these few cases the fish caught has been less than a third of my production for that year. It is always nice to have options but productive fishing in Canada has been and will in all likely hood remain to me a limited one.

In contrast I have watched the Canadian effort grow from a dozen or so full time boats with the rest of the Canadian effort part time participants fishing albacore between salmon openers, to a full size full time fleet. The composition of the Canadian Fleet has also changed dramatically, from what was primarily smaller salmon trollers to what now also includes a significant percent of very large aggressive vessels. It is now quite common for Canadian vessels to be in the majority in any given group of boats working an area of fish.

To the casual observer or someone not involved in the fishery, the entire coast would seem a large enough area for both fleets to spread out and fish with minimal interaction. The reality however is far different. Although there are often fish found over a broad area the highest concentration and most productive spots of albacore are often highly localized with the fish gathering along water temperature breaks or edges. As the season progresses the warm water recedes from the coast and continues to condense with both fish and boats crowding into ever shrinking areas. The predictable results are heated and potentially dangerous confrontations becoming all to common. The effect of this increase Canadian effort has been very detrimental and disruptive to my fishing efforts, and to me the negatives far outweigh the possible advantage to fishing in Canada.

This doesn't even begin to address the bigger picture of possible future regulations concerning limiting production on an international level, possible limited entry for U.S. vessels or other like issues that would in all likely hood as I see it, be in direct odds with allowing continued Canadian production off the length of our coast. No course of action is likely to be favored by all participants but considering the limited benefits to U.S fishermen, renewing the current unequal agreement I feel would be short sighted and ludicrous.

Thank you for your consideration

Feel free to contact me,

Thomas Wraith

Fishing Vessel Amy Lyn

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